

## DECISION RECORD

EA LOG NO. OR-010-2002-04

Applicant: Beaty Butte Grazing Association

Address: Adel, Oregon

County: Lake

BLM Office Lakeview District

Phone No. 947-2177

Decision Record

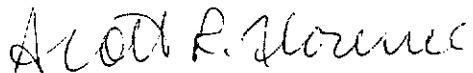
### **Decision:**

The decision is to construct 1.5 miles of temporary electric wire in two locations south of the Beaty Butte wildfire of 2000. One segment of fence would close off the west entrance to west gulch and the other segment would run about 1 mile from the east side of Mahogany Butte southeast across the saddle and the road to the base of a butte.

### **Rationale:**

The objective of the new fence segments would be to close trails and routes that livestock could use to get from the southern side of the north pasture into East-West gulch and the area burned by the wildfire. The Environmental Assessment (EA-OR-010-2002-04) analyzed 6 fence segments to keep the cattle south of the wildfire, but it was determined during field inspection that only two of the fence segments would be needed to achieve the objective.

This project is in conformance with the 1998 Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan FEIS and ROD, Warner Lakes MFP and the 1983 Lakeview Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement and ROD. During the 30-day public review period, no comments were received.



Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Field Office



Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
Beaty Butte Fire Electric Fence  
EA No. OR 010-2002-04

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal to construct about 3.0 miles of temporary two strand electric fence. One alternative (No Action ) was also considered. The fences would be in 6 segments designed to keep cattle off the Beaty Butte wildfire that burned in 2000. One fence segment is located in the west entrance of West Gulch and the other five segments would run east-west thru the saddles south of Shirk Lookout and Mahogany Butte. (See Map) These fence segments would close routes and trails that livestock could use to access the wildfire area. This project is in conformance with the Warner Lakes MFP, the 1983 Lakeview Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement and the Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1998).

There are no floodplain, wild and scenic rivers, riparian areas, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, prime or unique farm lands in the immediate project area. The project area does not qualify for potential wilderness designation. No adverse or beneficial significant impact is anticipated to lands and minerals. Surveys found no threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources in the area.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA and all other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

Scott R. Florence  
Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Field Office

3/20/02  
Date

PROJECT TITLE/TYPE: Beaty Butte Fire Temporary fences

PROJECT LOCATION: (see attached map).

BLM OFFICE: Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview District

LEASE/SERIAL/CASE FILE #: N/A

APPLICANT (if any): Boothe and Beaty Butte Grazing Association

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN: This proposed action is subject to one or more of the following land use plans.

Name of Plans: Warner Lakes Management Framework Plans (MFPs), as amended (1982, 1983, 1989, and 1995), Lakeview Grazing Management FEIS and ROD (1982), Oregon Wilderness FEIS and ROD (1989 and 1991), Wilderness Interim Management Policy (1995), Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991), Supplement to the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1987), Integrated Noxious Weed Control Program EA #OR-013-93-03 (1994), Lakeview District Fire Management Plan - Phase 1 (1998), Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy (1998), Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook (1998), Rangeland Reform '94 FEIS and ROD (1995), Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1997) and Beaty Butte Allotment Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1998).

PURPOSE and NEED FOR ACTION: To facilitate proper management of the entire Beaty Butte Allotment, it is necessary to graze the north pasture during the 2002 season. The Beaty Butte Wildfire in 2000 requires protection from livestock during the growing season of 2002 to allow full recovery. Therefore a temporary fence needs to be constructed to keep livestock off the 2000 wildfire, at least during the growing season.

DESCRIPTION of PROPOSED ACTION: The temporary fence would consist of a two wire electric fence built in 6 segments and totaling about 3 miles. One segment of fence would close off the west entrance to west gulch and the other segments would run east-west thru the saddles south of Shirks Lookout and Mahogany Butte (see Map). These fence segments would close trails and routes that livestock could use to get from the southern side of the north pasture into East-West gulch and the area burned by the wildfire.

ALTERNATIVES:

#1) Alternative 1- NO ACTION - Rely on herding and the topography to keep livestock off the wildfire area.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT: The area impacted by the fences would be areas dominated by big sagebrush/bunch grass mixed with low sagebrush/grass sites. The impacted areas would be the side slopes and saddles along the ridgeline south of East-West Gulch. A portion of the Beatys Butte allotment covers all of the Spaulding Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The potential environmental impacts resulting from the

alternatives relative to the following critical resource values were evaluated. The following is a summary of the results:

| Critical Element/<br>Resource Value             | Affected |    | Critical Element/<br>Resource Value | Affected |    |
|---|----------|----|-------------------------------------|----------|----|
|   | Yes      | No |                                     | Yes      | No |
| Air Quality                                     |          | X  | T & E Species                       |          | X  |
| ACEC/RNAs                                       |          | X  | Wilderness                          |          | X  |
| Cultural Resources                              |          | X  | Wild & Scenic Rivers                |          | X  |
| Farmlands, Prime/Unique                         |          | X  | Hazardous Wastes                    |          | X  |
| Floodplains                                     |          | X  | Water Quality                       |          | X  |
| Native American Cultural/<br>Religious Concerns |          | X  | Wetlands/Riparian Zones             |          | X  |
| Low Income/<br>Minority Populations             |          | X  | Noxious Weeds                       |          | X  |

DESCRIPTION of OTHER IMPACTS:

Proposed Action - There would be some temporary ground disturbance along the fence route, but it would be limited to sites where the posts would be driven and possibly some minor sagebrush clearing along the fence line to avoid grounding the electric fence. There would not be a change in the number, kind, class of livestock, and season of use authorized and used during the 1976 grazing fee year within the portion of the allotment covering the Spaulding WSA. No impacts to the area's wilderness values would occur under this alternative. The proposed temporary electrical fence would be located outside of the Spaulding WSA.

Alternative 1 - Cattle may drift into the wildfire area during the growing season and graze on grass plants still recovering from the stress of the wildfire. Grazing a growing grass plant during just the second year following a fire would reduce the plants ability to photosynthesize and replace deleted carbohydrate reserves in the plant roots. This reduces plant vigor and could cause some plants to die.

DESCRIPTION of MITIGATION MEASURES and RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

The fence would be marked with some colorful ribbon so as warn wildlife that the fence is there. The fence is temporary and would be removed in the fall. Throughout the season of use, the cattle would be herded to predetermined areas within specific time frames to avoid negative impacts to vegetation and visual conditions.

NOXIOUS WEED CONSIDERATIONS: Fence would be built using trucks near the road and ATV's along the route away from the road. These ATV's would be washed before using them. The fence line would be monitored to identify and treat any new noxious weed infestations.

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Lakeview Resource Area Specialists and Beaty Butte  
Grazing Association Permittees.

PREPARER(S): Les Boothe, BLM, RMS